



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Murphys Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	T3N, R14E, Secs 5&6; T3N R13E Secs 1,2 &11; T4N R14E Sec 32 MDB&M	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed shaded fuel break project is located near the town of Murphys in Calaveras County. The project crosses many small land ownerships. The proposed fuel break is located on a strategic ridge top area and control lines were constructed on the ridge for the Butte Fire in 2015, and the Old Gulch Fire in the 1990s. The project area is approximately 380 acres in size. The proposed shaded fuel break will be approximately 3.8 miles in length. The fuel break will vary in width, but will be at least 300 feet wide. The project area would best be described as oak woodland. Interior live oak is the primary species present, with scattered California gray pine and Ponderosa pine. Portions of the proposed fuel break contain dense stands of manzanita. The proposed project will be to construct a shaded fuel break along the strategic ridge top resulting in an open and park like condition. Surface and ladder fuels will be reduced by mastication, or hand crews cutting, piling and burning, or chipping brush and trees less than 12-inches diameter at breast height. Residual trees will be spaced to approximately 10 feet between live crowns. Residual trees will be pruned up approximately 8 feet. Dead trees of any size that pose a safety or fire hazard may be removed. Burning will be conducted during the winter and spring and in compliance with a burn permit from the Calaveras Air Pollution Control District.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 15304
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The Class of Exemption to be used is 14 CCR 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. The project consists of constructing a shaded fuel break. A query of the CNDDDB and field surveys did not reveal the presence of any sensitive species. Protection measures for watercourses are consistent with The California Forest Practice Rules. The project design avoids impacts to archaeological resources.

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 785 Mtn. Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 03 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date 10/3/18
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection